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December 1, 2003

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re:   *Ex Parte* Communication  
      CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the Rural Cellular Association, we submit a position paper titled, "Advancing the Purposes of the Universal Service Fund While Promoting Rural Telecommunications and Rural Economic Development".

We hope that this paper, presented by an association that represents nearly 100 rural wireless carriers, advances the debate on what, if any, changes to the high-cost support mechanism should be made.

Sincerely,

/s/

David LaFuria  
David Nace  
Counsel for The Rural Cellular Association

Enclosure

cc:     Joint Board members and staff